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WEEKLY GRAIN COMMENTARY									
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Grain markets were mixed this week as wheat futures rallied 27 cents, corn was up a modest 4 cents and soybeans were lower with a 10-cent loss. Wheat continues to show that it will be the bullish leader in the grain markets this year as low US and world stocks should set the stage for continued buying enthusiasm. This week’s surge was driven by the International Grain Council’s forecast for significantly lower world wheat stocks. They peg global ending stocks for 2006/07 at 117 MMT which is 10 MMT lower than USDA’s latest forecast. In addition, dry weather in Argentina, Australia and Europe are helping give futures a lift. Export business continues to be solid even in the face of surging prices. This week’s export sales were within the range of expectations at 435,000 tons. In the corn market, it’s modest gains were tied to short covering by fund traders. Better than expected weekly export sales, along with some private tender business being done was seen as lending underlying support. Weekly sales of new-crop corn were 2 MMT, well above analyst expectations. A new month begins on Friday along with a three day holiday weekend out in front of us. It should be a good test for the market as to whether the past few days have been tied to month end short covering and or there is some substantial buying beginning. Soybeans bucked the support seen in corn and wheat as favorable weather and talk of better yields keep the trade in negative territory. There still is little concern over weather over the next couple of weeks, allowing beans to maximize their yield potentials. While seeing stress during June and July, conditions have largely been optimal during the bulk of the flowing and pod-set stages of development. Because of this, the market is somewhat comfortable plugging in an additional 2 bu/acre to the final production figure.									
Grain futures		Corn Basis		Soybean Basis		Wheat Basis			
Location		Nearby	Forward	Nearby	Forward	Nearby	Forward		
Western, MD		+17		-59		-80			
Central, MD		-2	-20	-51	-60	-70			
Southern, MD		-10		-40	-36				
Upper E. Shore		+4		-27	-23	-92			
Lower E. Shore		+18	+6	-8	-12	-91			
WEEKLY CROP WEATHER SUMMARY – August 28, 2006				USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Maryland Field Office					
Weather conditions last week continued dry with lots of sunshine and above normal temperatures which allowed farmers to cut and bale hay. Alfalfa hay is 87 percent complete for the 3rd cutting and 40 percent complete for the 4th cutting. Corn for grain is maturing faster than normal with a few fields being harvested. Soybean condition continues to decline. Reporters indicate 31 percent of the beans are in poor to very poor conditions compared to 23 percent last week. There were 7.0 days suitable for field work. Pasture was rated 14 percent very poor, 37 percent poor, 38 percent fair, and 11 percent good, while hay supplies were rated 9 percent very short, 15 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus.									
CASH GRAINS – REGIONAL – (\$/bu) DEALERS AVERAGE CASH QUOTES									
Grade and Commodity		#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
Date		08/23	08/30	08/23	08/30	08/23	08/30	08/23	08/30
Western, MD		2.45	2.45	4.91	4.83	3.03	3.18	1.60	1.55
Central, MD		2.21	2.27	4.97	4.91	2.90	3.28	----	----
Southern, MD		2.10	2.19	5.14	5.02	----	----	1.45	1.45
Upper E. Shore		2.24	2.32	5.27	5.15	2.85	3.06	1.50	1.50
Lower E. Shore		2.33	2.46	5.47	5.34	2.85	3.07	1.58	1.54
Soybean Meal		Lower Eastern Shore				Dealer’s Average Cash Quotes (\$/ton)			
Date		08/23	08/30	Date		08/23	08/30		
48% Soybean Meal		N/A		44% Soybean Meal		N/A		N/A	
FORWARD CONTRACT PRICE – REGIONAL (\$/bu) for Harvest Delivery Dealer’s Avg. Quotes									
Grade and Commodity		#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
Date		08/23	08/30	08/23	08/30	08/23	08/30	08/23	08/30
Western MD		----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Central MD		2.16	2.25	4.97	4.91	3.32	3.68	----	----
Southern MD		2.16	----	5.22	5.11	3.60	3.79	----	----
Upper E Shore		2.29	----	5.35	5.24	3.64	3.83	----	----
Lower E Shore		2.37	2.51	5.47	5.39	3.63	3.85	----	----
GRAIN FUTURES – Chicago Board of Trade (Cents & Quarter – cents/bushel) Settle – August 30, 2006									
Corn		Soybeans		Wheat		Soybean Meal ¹			
06Sep	228¼	06Sep	542½	06Sep	397¼	06Sep	158½		
06Dec	244¾	06Nov	555½	06Dec	416¼	06Oct	159¾		
07Mar	259½	07Jan	569½	07Mar	436¼	06Dec	161¾		
07May	269½	07Mar	580½	07May	443¼	07Jan	163¾		
07Jul	278½	07May	590¼	07Jul	449½	07Mar	166½		
07Sep	284¾	07Jul	602½	07Sep	457¼	07May	168½		
/Price Unit: Dollars and cents/ton (100 tons (2,000 lbs/ton))									

HAY AND STRAW									
New Holland, PA - \$/ton – August 28, 2006									
Alfalfa		Mixed Hay		Timothy		Orchard grass		Straw	
117.00-195.00		90.00-210.00		160.00		97.00-220.00		95.00-160.00	
Westminster, MD - \$/bale – August 29, 2006 - -- 38 Lots									
Alfalfa		Alfalfa Mix		Timothy		Timothy Mix		Grass Mix	
2.50 - 3.90		2.00 - 2.70		2.60 - 4.90		1.30 - 3.80		2.30 - 4.70	
POULTRY									
Negotiated price for truck lot of ready-to-cook, ice-pack, Grade A Fryers (\$ per CWT) – Week Ending – September 02, 2006									
		Current Week		Week Ago		Month Ago		Year Ago	
N.Y. Weighted Avg.		65.76		65.87		69.60		68.87	
12 City Composite		69.69		69.07		67.93		71.38	
SHEEP & LAMBS - Westminster, MD - \$/cwt – August 29, 2006									
Sheep	31.00 - 56.00			Lambs	Under 50lbs	87.50 - 97.50	Feeders		
Very thin	10.00 - 20.00				50 - 80 lbs	80.00 -102.00	80.00 - 90.00		
Too fat	30.00				90 - 130 lbs	90.00 -107.50			
TERMINAL MARKETS HOGS – August 30, 2006				DIRECT MARKET HOGS – Westminster, MD – August 29, 2006					
Base Price Range	Carcass Basis	Sows (1 -3)		Butcher Hogs		Sows			
a.m.	Base 185 lb Hog	300 – 449 lbs		#1 215 - 275 lbs	40.00 - 45.00	Heavyweights	32.75 - 35.25		
Eastern Corn belt	63.50 - 69.01	36.93 - 42.10		Heavyweights	39.00 - 42.00				
Iowa, Minn	60.50 - 69.50	N/A				Boars			
						Lightweights	27.00 - 29.00		
Market Hogs - Millsboro, DE – August 8, 2006 - dollars/cwt 40.00 - 44.00 Next sale date – Sep. 12, 2006									
FEEDER PIGS – (\$/CWT) –									
Gumboro, DE August 8, 2006 Next sale date – Sep. 12, 2006					New Holland, PA				
Head: 271					Head			Trend:	
Under 30 lbs	80.00 -139.00	50 - 59 lbs	43.00 - 72.00	Not Available					
30 - 39 lbs	79.00 - 16.00	60 - 69 lbs	41.00						
40 – 49 lbs	40.00 - 06.00								
Chicago Mercantile Exchange \$/cwt) – August 30, 2006									
CATTLE –LIVE FUTURES					HOGS-LEAN FUTURES				
AUG06	89.88	FEB07	92.68	OCT06	66.60	APR07	63.45		
OCT06	92.93	APR07	91.00	DEC06	63.90	MAY07	66.45		
DEC06	92.90	JUN07	86.83	FEB07	63.75	JUN07	68.18		
STOCKER – FEEDER CATTLE – (\$/cwt)									
Winchester, VA – August 28, 2006					Westminster, MD – August 29, 2006				
Steers	300 - 400 lbs	130.50 - 143.50		Steers	200 - 300 lbs	87.00 - 120.00			
	400 - 500 lbs	130.50 - 147.00			400 - 500 lbs	82.00 - 83.00			
	500 - 600 lbs	115.00 - 125.50							
	600 - 700 lbs	108.50 - 124.50							
	700 - 800 lbs	101.00 - 111.00							
Heifers	300 - 400 lbs	118.50 - 134.00		Heifers	200 - 300 lbs	100.00 -112.50			
	400 - 500 lbs	107.25 - 122.00			400 - 500 lbs	83.00 - 98.00			
	500 - 600 lbs	102.00 - 114.50			600 - 700 lbs	80.00 - 94.50			
	600 - 700 lbs	100.00 - 105.50			800 - 1000 lbs	82.00 - 88.00			
	700 - 800 lbs	96.00 - 100.00							
SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt)									
Westminster, MD – August 29, 2006					Fed Heifers				
Sltr. Cows					Choice				
Hi Dressing					Select				
Breakers					Hols. Bull Calves #1				
Boners					#2				
Thin/Slow					#3				
Fed Steers					Culls				
Choice					Jerseys				
Holsteins					Beef Cross				
					Holstein Heifers #1				
					#2				
Lancaster, New Holland & Vintage – August 31, 2006									
Sltr. Steers:					Hols. Steers:				
H Ch & Pr 2-4		1300 -1490 lbs	87.00 - 89.75	Hi Ch & Pr 2-3		1475 - 1590lbs	75.75 - 77.00		
YG 4-5		1510 -1615 lbs	85.25 - 87.75	Choice 2-3		1270 - 1560 lbs	71.00 - 74.75		
Choice 2- 3		1150 -1475 lbs	84.25 - 87.25	Sel & LoCh 1-2		1215 - 1500 lbs	68.00 - 71.00		
Select & Lo Ch 1-3		1175 -1420 lbs	81.50 - 84.25						
Back on feed		1075 -1200 lbs	83.25 - 86.00	Sltr. Cows:		Percent Lean	Bulk		
				Premium White		65 - 75	53.25 - 54.75		
				Breakers		75 - 80	46.75 - 51.25		
Sltr Heifers				Boners		80 - 85	44.25 - 47.25		
Choice 2- 3		975 - 1330 lbs	80.00 - 83.75	Lean		88 - 90	41.25 - 43.50		

Compiled by USDA, NASS, Maryland Field Office			
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